



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: June 30, 2000
Release Number: 00-61

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SBA RAISES SIZE STANDARDS TO INCREASE CONSTRUCTION AND WASTE INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) adjusted its size standards to allow more participation from companies in construction, dredging and waste-related industries.

Federal procurement officials and others use size standards to determine whether a business is large or small and to determine eligibility for SBA's small business assistance programs. Determining the correct size standard can make the difference when a firm is competing for contracts reserved only for small businesses.

"Since we have adjusted the size standards, we estimated that there are more than 2,500 companies in construction, dredging and waste-related industries that will now qualify as small businesses," said SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. **"This opens the doors even wider to new contracting opportunities for the firms in these industries."**

Effective July 17, 2000, the following industries will be affected by the adjustment in size standards:

<u>Industry Category</u>	<u>Present Size Standard</u>	<u>Final Size Standard</u>
General Construction	\$17 million	\$27.5 million
Heavy Construction	\$17 million	\$27.5 million
Special Trades	\$7 million	\$11.5 million
Dredging	\$13.5 million	\$17 million
Refuse Services	\$6 million	\$10 million

Of the more than 2,500 companies that will be affected by the new size standards, 650 operate in general construction, 400 operate in heavy construction, 1,360 operate in special trades and 140 operate in waste or refuse collection. These small businesses collectively generate an estimated \$33.7 billion in annual sales.

The new size standards were published in the *Federal Register* on June 16, 2000. A full listing of SBA's size standards is available at <http://www.sba.gov/regulations/siccodes>.

Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: <http://www.sba.gov> *or by calling the SBA's Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA.*

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